July/August 1987

Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

ARBORETUM TREES BEAUTIFY LOCAL STREETS AND FREEWAYS

The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens continues an ongoing program of distributing flowering trees to organizations that use them to beautify public areas.

Recently the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum participated in two tree planting projects, one supported by the City of Pasadena and Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, the other involving the California Department of Transportation. In both programs the trees were Arboretum introductions. By supporting landscaping programs like these on well traveled highways the Department increases public awareness of the many colorful plants that were initially field tested in the County's gardens.

When the 210 Freeway near the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was dedicated about 15 years ago, the Arboretum donated a number of floss silk trees *(Chorisia speciosa)* for landscaping along the freeway. For the past five years these trees have exhibited a great display of flowers which improves in quantity and quality each year as the trees mature.

The trees have added so much beauty to freeway margins that the Arboretum offered the California Department of Transportation another assortment of trees this spring. Caltrans accepted the trees and in February planted out about 140 five-gallon *Erythrina sykesii,* four named cultivars of the silk floss tree *(Chorisia speciosa),* white flowered *Chorisia insignis,* and *Tabebuia impetiginosa* along Southern California freeways.

Should the trees perform well, an entirely new concept of freeway planting could be possible. Most of the trees can stand minimal watering during the dry summer months and still produce an abundance of colorful blossoms.

Alice Thomas

Tim Driscoll, (left) president of Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, listens as assistant director Leon Arnold, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum representative, commends the city of Pasadena and Pasadena Beautiful Foundation for success of the "Eastern Gateway Project." In this cooperative effort flowering trees that had been introduced by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum were donated by the Arboretum and planted along Sierra Madre Boulevard.

"We hope that these colorful trees which come from different parts of the world will form a network of Trees International throughout the Southern California freeway system," said Francis Ching, Department director.

In another joint effort, the City of Pasadena and Pasadena Beautiful planted trees donated by the Arboretum in the city's "Eastern Gateway Project." Alice Thomas, president of the California Arboretum Foundation and member of the board of Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, chaired a cooperative committee of representatives from the three institutions.

On April 25, 90 flowering trees from the Arboretum were planted in the Sierra Madre Boulevard median island that stretches west from the intersection at Michillinda Avenue, a major entry point into Pasadena.

Donated trees included *Bombax ceiba, Callistemon viminalis* 'Red Cascade', four named cutivars of *Chorisia speciosa, Chorisia insignis, Erythrina sykesii, Tabebuia chrysotricha, Tabebuia impetiginosa* and *Cassia leptophylla.*

During the planting ceremony Pasadena mayor, John Crowley, paid tribute to Dr. Samuel Ayres Jr. for the beauty he helped bring to Southern California. As one of the founders of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum almost 40 years ago, Dr. Ayres helped establish a testing ground for colorful trees imported from all over the world.

Planting trees in landscapes seen by thousands of drivers every day is one of the Department's outreach projects that meet the criteria of the botanic gardens' primary goals. With programs such as these the Department continues to bring beauty into private and public areas in Southern California.

LuAnn Munns

California Air Resources Board representatives (from left) Stan Dawson, Betty Ichikawa and Homero Cabrera discuss displays in the new Air Pollution Demonstration Greenhouses funded by the ARB which opened at the Arboretum on April 1.

MEMBERSHIP MORE VALUABLE AS ADMISSION FEES RISE

New admission fees at the gardens operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens on April 1 have had a relatively minor effect on attendance, records show. Although attendance overall dropped slightly, total revenue rose by about 60 percent.

Admission for all County cultural institutions increased for adults from $1.50 to $3; for ages over 62 and between 13 and 17 it increased from 75 cents to $1.50. A 75 cent ticket was initiated for youngsters between ages 5 and 12 years.

The new rates announced by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors makes membership in one of the gardens' support groups even more attractive. All categories of California Arboretum Foundation memberships, for instance, include two free admission passes, a valuable consideration for regular visitors to the Arboretum. The range of benefits that broadens as a member's financial contribution increases adds even more frosting to the cake.

Besides the satisfaction of contributing to a worthwhile institution, members in all categories receive bi-monthly issues of GARDEN magazine; discounts on lectures, seminars or classes sponsored by the Foundation; invitations and discount prices for special events; 10 percent discount on most Gift Shop items; and a gift plant at the annual meeting. Supporting members receive this selection of benefits.

In addition, youngsters of family members receive annual admission passes.

When garden clubs and horticultural societies become Foundation members they also receive a special walking tour of the grounds and a special Arboretum event. Sustain-

ing members may take advantage of two free tickets to the Baldwin Bonanza preview party and a private walking tour. In addition, affiliate members are entitled to reserved parking for the Baldwin Bonanza preview.

Benefactors receive all member benefits plus an annual Benefactor Party and complimentary tickets to selected special events. Ten consecutive years as a benefactor confers lifetime membership and a specimen tree planted in the member's name.

Businesses which contribute to the Foundation receive a gift plant for the office, four tickets to Baldwin Bonanza preview party and a private walking tour of the grounds.

JOAN DEFATO NAMED TOP GARDENS EMPLOYEE IN 1986

Joan DeFato, Plant Science Librarian at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, was named Employee of the Year for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. She was also nominated as the Los Angeles County Employee of the Month for April.

A scroll honors Ms. DeFato for exceptional effort and accomplishments during her 14 years with the Department. With limited funds and staff, Ms. DeFato has improved the library collections, increased public use of the library, and at the same time publicized the value of the holdings to organizations interested in plants. The Plant Science Library continues to gain stature in the community because Ms. DeFato so willingly shares her extensive knowledge as she assists and educates library users.

After earning a degree in botany at Barnard College and a master of science at Columbia University School of Library Service, Ms. DeFato worked at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in Yonkers, NY, before coming to the Arboretum. Today, she manages a reference library containing over 28,000 books and pamphlets and 300 periodicals from around the world. She assists home gardeners, staff members, students and professionals in the plant industry who are looking for information.

One of Ms. DeFato's major undertakings has been changing the library's outdated cataloguing system to the Library of Congress system used at many universities. This method is easier to use and will accomodate the continued growth of the Department's collection.

After the devastating fire at the Los Angeles Public Library last year, Ms. DeFato joined volunteers in the rush to pack water-damaged books for preservation and made financial contributions to a "Save the Books" campaign. She also contacted other special librarians for contributions of books and periodicals to replace those in the science and technology collection lost or damaged in the fire.

Through her activities in library associations, Ms. DeFato has made the Arboretum's library a recognized resource among specialists in the horticultural field. She is past president of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. Currently treasurer of the Special Libraries Association, Southern California Chapter, Ms. DeFato also received a service award for work on the Chapter's Advisory Council. As volunteer membership secretary for the Southern California Horticultural Institute Ms. DeFato keeps records and distributes monthly mailings to more than 500 members.

Los Angeles County is fortunate to have an employee the caliber of Joan DeFato.

LuAnn Munns

Joan DeFato, Plant Science Librarian, holds the scroll honoring her nomination for Los Angeles County Employee of the Month.

Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes Celebrate 20th Anniversary

Celebration of the 20th anniversary of Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes on May 8 brought together many people instrumental in the development of the Arboretum. From left, Maria Stewart, founder of Las Vols, and her husband, Dr. William Stewart, Arboretum director from 1955 to 1970, talk with Mrs. Alice Thomas, current president of the California Arboretum Foundation, and Francis Ching, current director of the Arboretum.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commended Las Voluntaries y Los Ayudantes for 20 years of volunteer activities in which members have donated about 30,000 hours to the Arboretum each year. Presenting the scroll to Patty (Mrs. William) Rider, (from left) Las Vols president, and Mrs. Alice Thomas, California Arboretum Foundation president, is Sarah Flores, deputy to Peter Schabarum, 5th District Supervisor.

Past presidents of Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes gather at the organization's 20th anniversary celebration. From left, Ruth Mary (Mrs. Leland) Larson who took office in 1972; Mrs. Alice Thomas in 1967; Robin (Mrs. Benjamin Stafford in 1983; and Joan (Mrs. David) Malafronte in 1978.

(LASCA continues after page 32)

Baldwin Bonanza XVII

Except for a surge of 2,000 members and guests at the Baldwin Bonanza XVII preview party, shoppers came to the annual plant sale in a deceptive even, steady pace. So when the receipts were tallied after the May 3 sale, chairman Tom McDuffie was pleased to learn that gross sales were on a par with previous years.

Everything sold well, with blooming plants the heavy favorites again this year, according to Mr. McDuffie. "Really, it was the color that sold first," he said. "The yellow callas went as fast as we could put them out." He named blue hibiscus, pelargoniums, anthuriums, fuchsias, impatiens and dianthus as other blooming plants that sold briskly.

In summing up, Mr. McDuffie thanked everyone on the Baldwin Bonanza committee and John Provine's staff for their efforts. "It was the group effort that made it a success, not me," he said.

Coordinator for Ayres Hall sales was Betty (Mrs. George) O'Neill who will be co-chairman with Mr. McDuffie in 1988. Dorothy (Mrs. Milt) Murset kept things running smoothly in the shade shelter and Eleanor (Mrs. Michael) Firgadamo coordinated tree sales. Cashier coordinators in the three areas were Betty (Mrs. John) Watson in Ayres Hall, Douglas McElroy in the shade area and Charles Stein and Bill Riley in the tree area.

Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman and Virginia (Mrs. Charles) Stein handled general information requests while Ruthe (Mrs. Joe) Betti cocordinated the volunteer plant consultants. Mrs. Ruth Brankey and Grace (Mrs. Harry) Robinson were in charge of gift wrapping.

Ken Quigley

Tom McDuffie, Baldwin Bonanza XVII chairman, his wife, Mildred, (center) and Patty (Mrs. William) Rider survey the preview party crowd.

LuAnn Munns

Below *An orchid fancier adds up his purchases.*

LuAnn Munns

Above *Dr. Milton D. Schmutz carries off his trophies.*

Right *A mini-violet is just the right size for Christina Marbray.*

Below *The Promenade Brass Quintet serenades at the preview party.*

LuAnn Munns

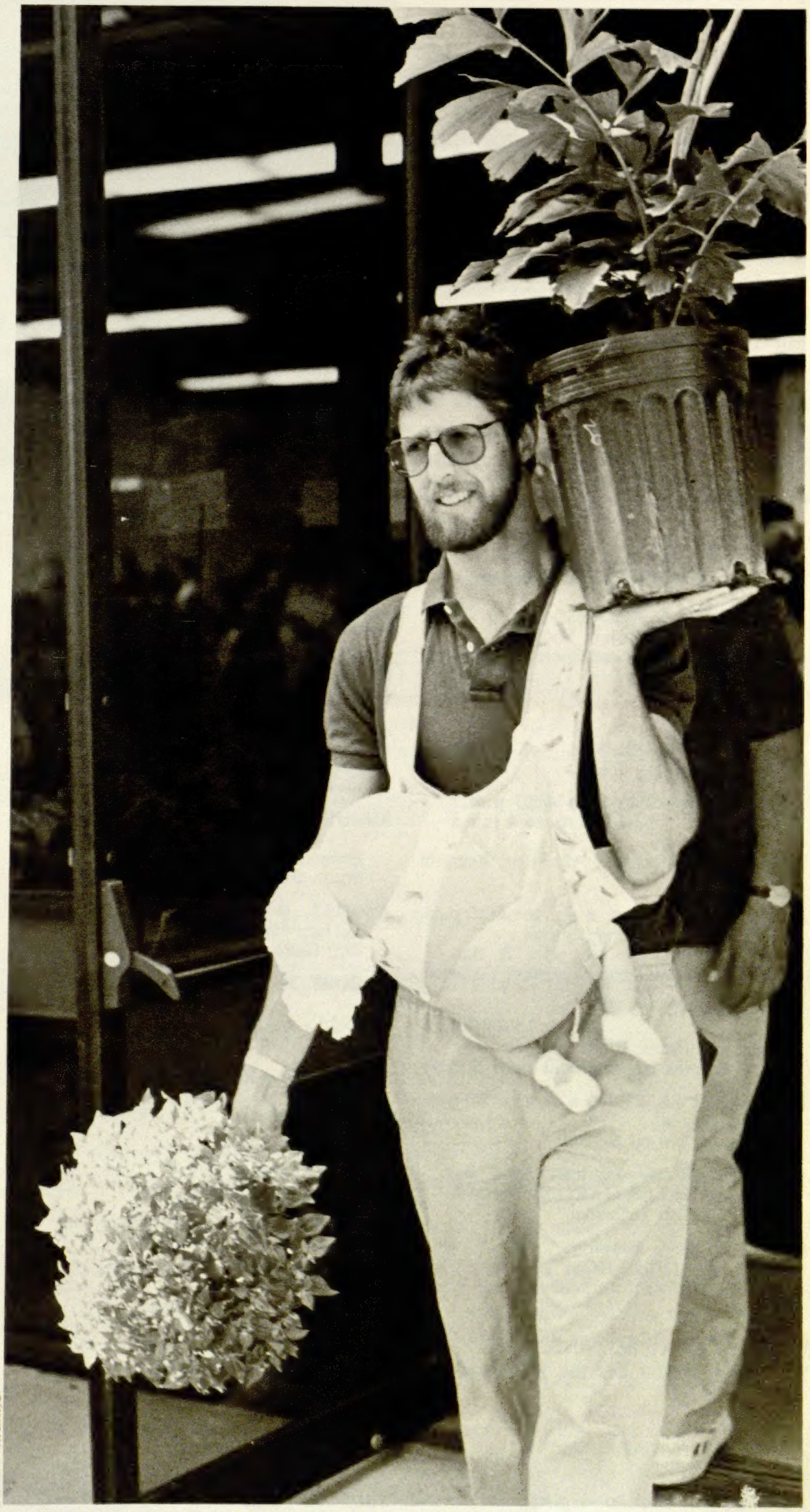
LuAnn Munns

Above *Betty Houke and Jim Nichols busily enroll new California Arboretum Foundation members.*

Below *Early bird John Dekama nabbed some of the popular flowering plants.*

Ken Quigley

LuAnn Munns



A new father has his hands full.

BRITISH FLOWER ARRANGER LECTURES AT ARBORETUM

Alice Thomas, (left) California Arboretum Foundation president, assists as Sheila Macqueen, noted British flower arranger, autographs copies of her book following a morning lecture-demonstration on April 27. Mrs. Macqueen has been honored for her teaching by both the Garden Club of America and the Royal Horticultural Society. Standing beside her is one of the eight sumptuous arrangements she created. Each was to be awarded as prizes to lucky persons among the crowd of 50 attending the program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

JULY 3, 4, 5—9:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
Cactus and Succulent Society of America

JULY 18—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Koi Seminar
Koi Clubs of America
$25 registration fee

JULY 25, 26—Sat. 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Begonia Show
SGV Branch of the American Begonia Society

AUGUST 22, 23—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
Long Beach, Los Angeles & San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Societies

SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7— 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fern and Exotic Plant Show
Los Angeles International Fern Society

SEPTEMBER 26, 27—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society

OCTOBER 16-25—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW
"The English Influence"

OCTOBER 15 — Evening
Gala GARDEN SHOW Preview Party
California Arboretum Foundation

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

JULY 12—2 p.m.
Fern Talk and Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

JULY 19—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jaguar Show
Jaguar Owners Club of Los Angeles

JULY 26—2 p.m.
Flower Arranging Demonstration
Gudrun Kimmel and Rilla Crane

AUGUST 1, 2—Sat. 12 to 4:30 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bromeliad Show
South Bay Bromeliad Associates

AUGUST 9—2 p.m.
Lecture "Miniature Roses"
Bob Butler

AUGUST 16—Sat. 12 to 4:30 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dahlia Show
South Coast Dahlia Society

AUGUST 23—2 p.m.
Talk "Begonias of the World"
Muriel Perz

AUGUST 30—2 p.m.
Talk "Indoor Plants"
Christine Robalatto

SEPTEMBER 13—12 to 4 p.m.
Origami Festival
South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS La Canada Flintridge

JULY 3 thru 30—9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Artist of the Month
Alice Asmar

JULY 5—2:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Program
Under the oaks

JULY 12—2:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Program
Under the oaks

JULY 19—2:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Program
Under the oaks

JULY 26—2:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Program
Under the oaks

JULY 31 thru AUGUST 27—9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Artists of the Month
Judith Moore-Knapp and Gabriel Voorhis Pelch

AUGUST 2—2:30 p.m.
Jazz Concert
Georgia Alwan

AUGUST 9—2:30 p.m.
Phoenix-New Age Folk Music
Under the oaks

AUGUST 16—2:30 p.m.
Swing Band Concert
Under the oaks

AUGUST 23—2:30 p.m.
Dancing and Demonstrations of Japanese Armor
Anachronism from Freikorps Armory

AUGUST 30—2:30 p.m.
Walden Trio-flute, guitar and bass
Under the oaks

AUGUST 28 thru SEPTEMBER 24—9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Artist of the Month
Virginia Robertson

SEPTEMBER 29—9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Discover Descanso
Descanso Gardens Guild

SEPTEMBER 25 thru OCTOBER 22—9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Artists of the month
Pasadena Society of Artists